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RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

Info

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TS AUTH. REASON(S)

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒

INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

1967 JULY 18 AM 11:20

RUMJIRH/AMCONSUL DANANG

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUB: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY : JULY 18 MORNING SESSION

REF: SAIGON 1306

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVED FINAL POSTING OF TEN PRESIDENTIAL SLATES MORNING JULY 18. INCLUDED AMONG LISTS VALIDATED WERE THOSE OF PHAN KHAC SUU, TRAN VAN HUONG AND HA THUC KY. CASES OF NGUYEN VAN THIEU, DUONG VAN MINH AND AU TRUONG THANH

WILL BE DISCUSSED IN JULY 18 AFTERNOON SESSION.

2. NGUYEN THANH VINH, CHAIRMAN OF NA SPECIAL COMMITTEE, OPENED MORNING SESSION BY READING REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE. REPORT DIVIDED CANDIDATES INTO FOUR CATEGORIES:

A. LISTS WHOSE DOSSIERS ARE COMPLETE AND AGAINST WHICH NO COMPLAINTS WERE FILED. COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED THAT THEY BE APPROVED BY ASSEMBLY. THESE INCLUDED SLATES OF PHAN KHAC SUU, HA THUC KY, TRAN VAN HUONG, TRAN VAN LY, NGUYEN HOA HIEP, AND HOANG CO BINH.

B. LISTS WHICH WERE PROTESTED BUT WHICH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED BY APPROVED. THIS CATEGORY INCLUDED SLATES OF TRUONG DINH DZU, PHAM HUY CO, VU HONG KHANH, AND NGUYEN DINH QUAT.

C. LISTS WHICH WERE PROTESTED AND WHICH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED ASSEMBLY REJECT. THESE INCLUDED SLATES OF LY DAI NGUYEN, TRAN THUONG NHON, AU TRUONG THANH, AND

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HOANG CHU NGOC.

D. LISTS WHICH WERE PROTESTED, BUT ABOUT WHICH COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO DECIDE "BECAUSE THERE WERE MANY DIFFERING IDEAS, THE DISCUSSION BECAME DISORDERLY AND AT TIMES DEADLOCKED..."

MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE DECIDED TO PRESENT FACTS OF EACH CASE TO ASSEMBLY WITHOUT MAKING RECOMMENDATION. THIS CONTROVERSIAL CATEGORY INCLUDED THE SLATES OF NGUYEN DINH LUYEN, DUONG VAN MINH, LUU QUANG HONG, AND NGUYEN VAN THIEU.

3. IMMEDIATELY AFTER VINH'S PRESENTATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER HUYNH THANH DUC, DISPLEASED AT OBJURATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT, ANNOUNCED WHAT COMMITTEE VOTE HAD BEEN IN EACH CASE. ACCORDING TO DUC, COMMITTEE VOTED 8 TO 5 TO ACCEPT MINH CANDIDACY, 9 TO 5 TO REJECT LUU QUANG HONG, 9 TO 2 TO REJECT NGUYEN DINH LUYEN, AND 8 TO 4 TO REJECT NGUYEN VAN THIEU. CAMVAN QUY ALSO BLASTED COMMITTEE REPORT. (ALTHOUGH COMMITTEE VOTED BY SECRET BALLOT, QUY IS REPORTED TO HAVE VOTED TO REJECT THIEU-KY TICKET.) NGUYEN HUU THONG, PRESIDING IN ABSENCE OF PHAN KHAC SUU, REMINDED DEPUTIES THAT ASSEMBLY, NOT SPECIAL COMMITTEE, MAKES FINAL DECISION. HE SUGGESTED THEY GET ON WITH IT. DAN VAN QUY AND NGUYEN DINH DANG PROPOSED THAT ALTHOUGH FIRST SIX LISTS (CATEGORY A. ABOVE) HAD NOT BEEN PROTESTED, ASSEMBLY SHOULD EXAMINE POLICE REPORTS WITH RESPECT TO THOSE LISTS BEFORE MAKING DECISION. ASSEMBLY REJECTED THEIR SUGGESTION.

4. WITH SPECIAL COMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR NGUYEN HUU CHUNG PRESENTING COMMITTEE FINDINGS, ASSEMBLY BEGAN VOTING ON INDIVIDUAL CASES. FIRST SIX SLATES (CATEGORY A.) WERE APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE BY FOLLOWING VOTES:

SUU - DAN	74 IN FAVOR
KY - DINH	74 IN FAVOR
HUONG - TRUYEN	81 IN FAVOR
LY - DUONG	78 IN FAVOR
WIEP - TRUYEN	72 IN FAVOR
BINH - KWINH	66 IN FAVOR

5. ASSEMBLY THEN MOVED ON TO FOUR SLATES WHICH WERE PROTESTED BUT WHICH SPECIAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED BY APPROVED. FIRST OF

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THESE WAS LIST OF TRUONG DINH DZU - TRAN VAN CHIEU. PROTEST WAS FILED AGAINST DZU STATING THAT HE WAS CAM LAO, AND HAD EMBEZZLED \$150,000. ACCORDING TO RAPPORTEUR CHUNG, CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL RULED THAT CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT WAS NEVER SUBSTANTIATED IN COURT, BUT DID RECOMMEND THAT DZU CANDIDACY BE REJECTED BECAUSE HE HAD ENGAGED IN PRO-COMMUNIST ACTIVITY, HAVING BEEN IMPLICATED IN SOME SORT OF PEACE MOVEMENT IN 1954. DZU, IN APPEARANCE BEFORE SPECIAL

COMMITTEE, DENIED INVOLVEMENT IN PEACE MOVEMENT. SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOUND THAT DZU, ALONG WITH 300 OTHER INTELLECTUALS, HAD SIGNED PEACE DECLARATION IN 1954, BUT THAT HIS WAS NOT THE "PEACE MOVEMENT" WHICH CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL THOUGHT IT TO BE. BY VOTE OF 8 TO 2 SPECIAL COMMITTEE DECIDED TO APPROVE DZU CANDIDACY. ASSEMBLY, AFTER SOME DEBATE, AGREED BY VOTE OF 48 IN FAVOR TO ACCEPT DZU-CHIEU TICKET.

6. PHAM HUY CO-LY QUOC SINH SLATE WAS NEXT TO BE DISCUSSED. TICKET WAS PROTESTED ON GROUNDS THAT CO HAD NOT LIVED CONTINUOUSLY IN VIET-NAM TEN YEARS PRIOR TO ELECTION AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 10 OF ELECTION LAW. CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL RULED THAT, IN VIEW OF HIS OPPOSITION TO DIEM, CO'S ABSENCE PRIOR TO 1963 REVOLUTION COULD BE CONSIDERED POLITICAL EXILE. SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGREED AND BY VOTE OF 10 TO 2 RECOMMENDED ACCEPTANCE OF HIS CANDIDACY. IN ASSEMBLY DEBATE LE THANH CHAU NOTED THAT CO LEFT VIET-NAM THREE DAYS AFTER DIEM TOOK OVER, AND WONDERED HOW HE COULD HAVE BECOME A BITTER POLITICAL ENEMY OF DIEM IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. HOWEVER, OTHER DEPUTIES TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS IN FACT A POLITICAL OPPONENT OF DIEM, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING BEEN IN POLITICAL EXILE,

ASSEMBLY DECIDED BY VOTE OF 54 IN FAVOR TO ACCEPT CO-CHIEU CANDIDACY.

7. NEXT TO BE CONSIDERED WAS CASE OF VU HONG KHANH-DUONG TRUNG DONG. CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL FOUND NO BASIS IN FACT FOR CHARGE THAT DONG STOLE 165 GIA OF BEANS IN 1949. SPECIAL COMMITTEE VOTED 8 TO 3 TO ACCEPT KHANH - DONG CANDIDACY. ASSEMBLY DID LIKEWISE, WITHOUT DEBATE, BY VOTE OF 56 IN FAVOR.

8. LAST CASE TO BE CONSIDERED WAS LIST-OF NGUYEN DINH QUAT

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AND TRAN VUU CHAN. PHAN KHAC SUU LODGED PROTEST AGAINST QUAT FOR HAVING SELECTED SAME SYMBOL AS SUU (PLOWING BUFFALO). DONG WAS ACCUSED OF BEING A FRENCH CITIZEN. ACCORDING TO CHUNG, QUAT TOLD SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAT HE HAD USED BUFFALO SYMBOL IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL RACE AGAINST DIEM, AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT DONG IS FRENCH CITIZEN. WITHOUT DEBATE ASSEMBLY APPROVED QUAT-DONG TICKET BY VOTE OF 60 IN FAVOR.

9. ASSEMBLY WILL RECONVENE 1600 JULY 18 TO CONSIDER REMAINING EIGHT CANDIDACIES. PRESIDING OFFICER NGUYEN HUU THONG DEPUTIES TO BE PREPARED TO WORK UNTIL MIDNIGHT IF NECESSARY.

BUNKER

BT NOTE: PASSED S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA
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